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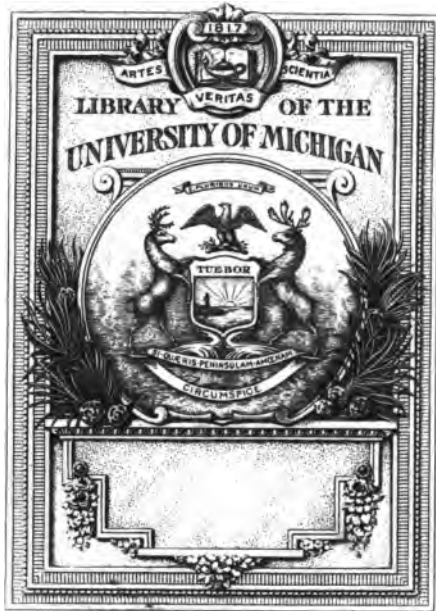
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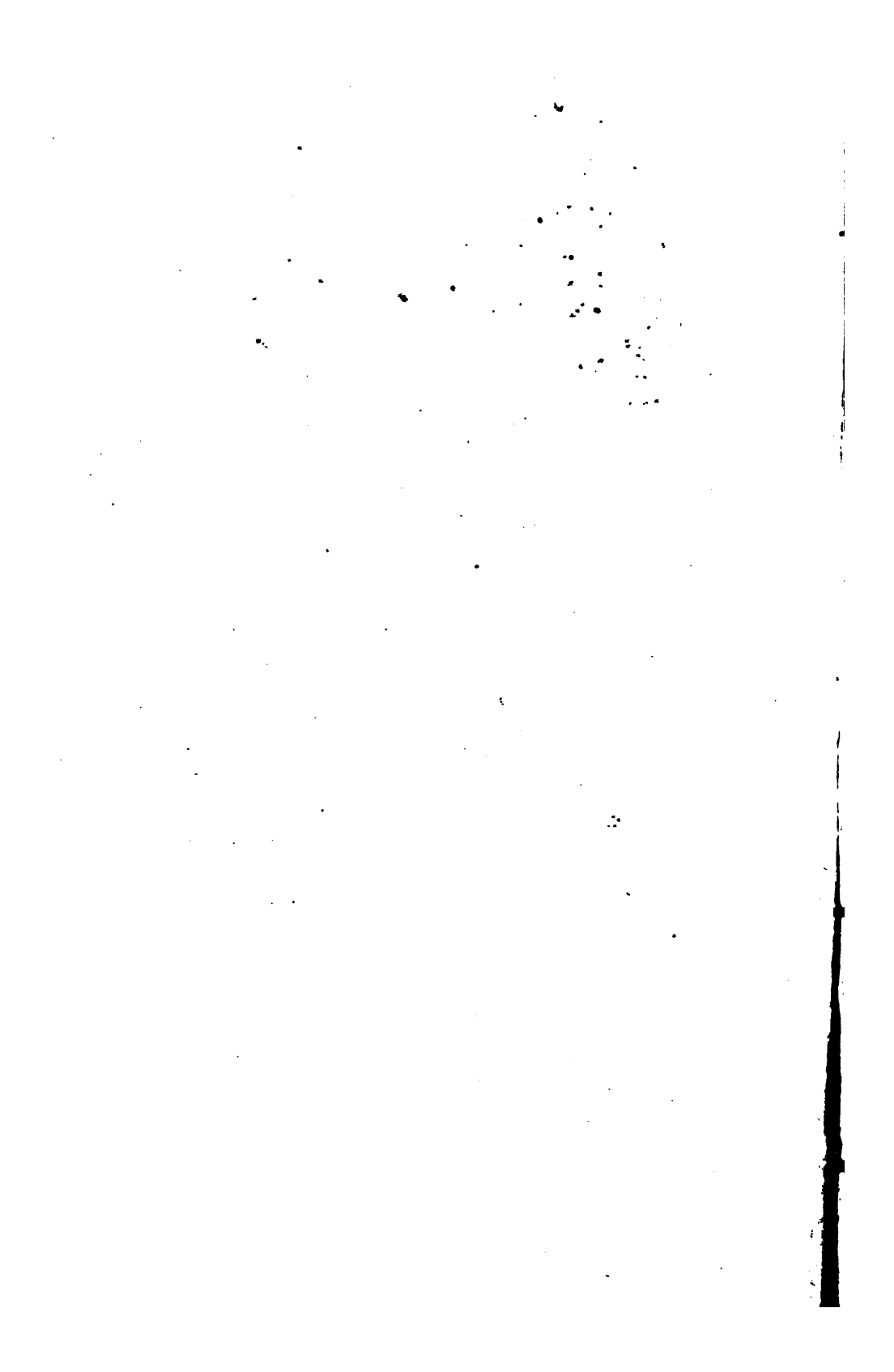
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*West India planters and merchants,
= London*

AN ABSTRACT

OF THE

BRITISH WEST INDIAN STATUTES,

FOR THE

PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT

OF

SLAVES.

LONDON:

JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

MDCCCXXX.



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At a Meeting of the Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants, held at the West India Committee Rooms, 60, St. James's Street, the 24th February, 1830:

THE MARQUIS OF CHANDOS IN THE CHAIR:

IT WAS RESOLVED,

That this Body, identified in interest with the Colonial Legislatures, and placing implicit confidence in their proceedings, recognise in those measures which they have adopted for the improvement of the Slave population, that humane disposition, as well as that local experience, and that practical observation, without which any plans of amelioration would be no less injurious to the Slaves themselves than to the Proprietors.

That the West India Body repeat the declaration, that they have never directly or indirectly authorized or concurred in any measure, having for its object compulsory manumission of the Slaves in the West India Colonies ; and they continue of opinion that such a measure would be highly inexpedient, and that it is even inconsistent with the Resolutions of Parliament of 1823, being in their opinion opposed both to the civilization and welfare of the Slaves, and to the interests and rights of property of the Colonists.

That by the policy which has been unhappily pursued towards the West India Colonies, the tenure by which those possessions, with all their advantages, political and commercial, are held by the Mother Country, is becoming more and more precarious ; and it is therefore essential that measures should be adopted by this Body, both collectively and individually, to bring the real situation of the West India Colonies before Members of the Legislature and the Country at large, in order

to prevent the loss or destruction of so valuable a portion of the Empire, which a longer perseverance in a mistaken policy must inevitably occasion.

That, for the convenience of those persons who have not leisure to ascertain from Parliamentary documents what the Colonial Legislatures have *actually done* towards the amelioration of Slavery, it is deemed expedient to present an Abstract of their existing Slave Codes.

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to the Slave Meliorating Provisions enacted by the


| | Page of this Ab- stract. | Religious In- struction and Observances. | Marriage and Baptism. | General Treat- ment: Mainte- nance, Labour, and Holidays. | Regulation of Punishments: Whip disused. |
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| BARBADOS | 8 | p. 8, § 1, 4; p. 9, § 6. | p. 8, § 1. | p. 9, § 5, 32; p. 29, § 21. | p. 9, § 46. |
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| ANTIGUA VIRGIN ISLES | 35 26 | } A general Statement. | | | |
| TRINIDAD ST. LUCIA } | 43 | Colonies not regulated by Legislative Enactments of their own, | | | |

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several Colonies, as exhibited in the following Abstract.

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| p. 28, § 6. | p. 30, § 44 to 51. | p. 29, § 13. | p. 29, § 36, 37. | p. 28, § 14, 16, 17; p. 29, § 20, 58. |
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| p. 35, § 41. | p. 34, § 32. | p. 34, § 26. | p. 35, § 35, 36, 45. | p. 34, § 32; p. 35, § 35. |
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| p. 16, § 50. | p. 16, § 51. | p. 17, 2. | p. 16, § 52. | p. 16, § 13, 48. |
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but by British Orders in Council.

 The following Abstract confines itself to such clauses of each Act, as contain provisions in favor of the slave. But, for the use of those who may desire fuller information, such a reference is in every case given, as will direct the reader to the several Statutes in detail.

March, 1830.

J A M A I C A.

THE consolidated Slave-Law of Jamaica, passed in 1816, received unqualified approbation from many of His Majesty's ministers, as containing numerous salutary and humane provisions ; whilst it expunged those enactments which the policy of an earlier period rendered imperative, but which in the present day appear harsh, and have become unnecessary.

In the session of 1826, the Assembly framed and passed a new consolidated slave law, embodying all the beneficial provisions of the former, and adding to them many still more important privileges, such as the advanced civilization of the Negro population has now enabled their masters to confer on them with safety. The whole was, however, disallowed by His Majesty's government, on account of certain clauses, limiting the operations of sectarian preachers.

It is gratifying to be able now to add, from in-

formation lately received from the colony, that the Assembly of Jamaica, during the present session, have revised and re-enacted this law of 1826, with the addition of farther provisions in favour of the slave. The act, thus amended, has received the formal assent of the Governor; and will, it is therefore hoped, receive His Majesty's confirmation.

The following abstract of the ameliorating clauses of the act, as passed in 1826, sufficiently evinces the disposition of the Assembly of Jamaica to enlarge the privileges, and to protect the persons, of their slaves.

*Religious Observances.**

§ 3. Provides that the clergyman of each parish shall, on application, without fee or reward, *baptise* all slaves who can be made sensible of a duty to God and the Christian faith: in the which, owners are to instruct them.

§ 4. That the said clergyman shall, also without fee, *marry*, with their owner's consent, any slaves who have been baptised, and are desirous of contracting matrimony, if such clergyman shall, upon examination of the parties, consider them to have a proper and adequate knowledge of the obligation of such a contract.

* For the sake of classification, the original arrangement of the clauses is occasionally departed from. The several acts here abstracted are to be found in the "Papers respecting the Slave Population, presented (annually) to Parliament, by his Majesty's command."

§ 6. Abolishes *Sunday markets and shops*, after 11 a. m., excepting druggists', and a few other cases, in conformity with the practice of England relative to the Sabbath.

§ 7. Prohibits *levies on slaves* on Saturdays, in order to enable them to attend religious duties on Sundays.

§ 9. Prohibits persons from employing the slaves of others on Negro-days or Sundays.

§ 10. Directs that slaves shall not be compelled to *work on Sundays*, even in crop time; and prohibits the mill being put about between 7 p. m. on Saturday and 5 a. m. on Monday.

Labour, Holidays, &c.

§ 26. Slaves to have half an hour for *breakfast*, and two hours for *dinner*; not to be compelled to field-labour before 5 in the morning or after 7 at night, except during crop, under penalty of £50.

§ 8. Slaves shall have one day in every fortnight, except in crop time, but at least twenty-six days in the year, called *Negro-days*, to cultivate their grounds, exclusive of Sundays, under penalty of £20.

§ 27. *Holidays* at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide, to be allowed; but not more than three in succession.

§ 17. Mothers having six of their own or adopted children are exempted from any species of laborious work.

Treatment.

§ 11. Requires that slaves be furnished with adequate *provision-grounds*, or, in default of ground, or during drought, a weekly allowance of 3s. 4d., under penalty of £50.

§ 12. Requires that all slaves shall, at least once a year, be supplied with proper and sufficient *clothing*, under

penalty of £5 for each omission ; and requires the owner, or overseer, annually to declare upon oath, that these several regulations have been faithfully observed, under penalty of £100.

Manumission.

§ 66. Manumission-bonds dispensed with, in devises of freedom ; but estate of testator liable for annuity to person emancipated. Freedom by will at once established. Manumission-bond, securing to each slave an annuity of £10, also dispensed with, on satisfying magistrates and vestry that slave is not aged or infirm, but capable of earning his own maintenance.

§ 67. Persons possessing limited freehold interest in slaves, femes covert, minors, &c. may manumise them.

Legal Protection and Privileges.

§ 5. That in all cases where a levy shall be made of a family or families, each family shall be *sold together* and in one lot. [N. B. This does not absolutely bar separation, as it may happen that a single slave will satisfy the levy, and there may not be one on the property who is without family connexions : there is a proviso which seems to contemplate this. The case, however, must be very infrequent.]

§ 15. Recognises the right of slaves to *personal property*, and gives to it a further protection than that of free persons, by inflicting a penalty of £10 on the person trespassing on it, in addition to the value, to be summarily recovered.

§ 16. Recognises the right of slaves to *receive bequests* of personal property.

§ 18. Sick and infirm slaves are to be maintained by their owners ; and if they are permitted to wander about, such owner or his agent is subject to a penalty of £20, and the expense of maintaining such slaves,—who, as well as all diseased or destitute manumitted persons, and slaves without owners, shall be properly maintained,—in the parish workhouse.

§ 21. Owners to settle on old, infirm, or disabled slaves manumitted by them £10 a year, under penalty of £100, to be paid the church-wardens, who are out of it to support the manumitted person.

§ 30. Murder of slave punished with death.

§ 32. Rape on female slave, or carnal knowledge under puberty, punished with death.

§ 33. Owner or other person, by whom slaves are branded or otherwise *maltreated*, to be punished with fine or imprisonment, or both ; in atrocious cases of maltreatment by owner, slave to be made free, and to receive £10 per annum from the parish, to which parish the fine of £100 on owner is to be paid in such cases ; slave maltreated to be forthwith, on view or information, sent to the workhouse by any justice of the peace, not to be worked, or confined with slaves under punishment, but to be there taken care of until judicial investigation be had. Justices and vestry to be a council of protection, and, if they see cause, to prosecute offender.

§ 36. Slaves not to receive more than 10 lashes, except in presence of owner or overseer, &c., nor in such presence more than 39, nor until recovered from former *punishment*, under penalty of £20.

§ 39. No collar, or chains, to be put on slaves, but by order of a magistrate. Justice of peace to cause such collar, &c., to be removed, under a penalty of £100.

§ 97. Slaves committing offences subjecting to death, transportation, or hard labour for more than one year, to be tried before *grand and petit jurors*, as white persons are tried. Sentence of death or transportation not to be effected without warrant from governor, who is to see indictment, evidence, sentence, or copy attested; except in cases of rebellion, &c., when execution immediate, but reference may be made to governor.

§ 100. Barrister or attorney to *defend slaves* capitally indicted. To be paid salary or fees out of parochial funds. Free witnesses not attending slave court to be fined.

§ 102. Jurors, &c., and slaves in attendance on slave court, exempt from civil process.

§ 109. Execution of death to be solemn and public. Rector or curate to attend criminal while under sentence, and at *execution*. Gaoler, under penalty, to keep prisoner sober. Execution, as in England.

§ 120. Convicts, sentenced for life to hard labour, behaving well, governor, on representation of commissioners of workhouse, may, with convict's approbation, order them to be restored.

§ 128. *Evidence* of slaves admitted in criminal cases. Proviso, that certificate of baptism be produced, and that slave understands obligation of an oath; that no free person be convicted but on evidence of two slaves, examined apart; and that no free person be convicted on slave testimony, unless complaint be made within twelve months.

To the foregoing abstract, necessarily abridged and incomplete in the confined limits here prescribed, it must be added : that

1. In order to secure to the slave population effectual instruction in the tenets of the Christian faith, curates have been appointed throughout the island for that special purpose ; that

2. In common with every British subject, the protection of a grand jury has been extended to them ; and an advantage has been secured to them which no British subject in the united kingdom enjoys, that of having counsel assigned them at the public expense, with liberty to address the jury on behalf of any slave who may be put on his trial for any capital offence.

3. And lastly, to obviate any possible objection that may be urged, that ample protection is not afforded to the slave by law, he has been rendered competent to give evidence in all criminal cases.*

SOME, among the other colonies, have been enabled under the peculiar circumstances of their

* See Acts of Assembly of Jamaica : 2 Geo. IV. c. 16 ; 4, c. 15 ; 5, c. 21 ; 7. c. 23.

more limited population, and other causes, even to exceed Jamaica in the extent of the privileges which they have conferred on their slave population ; and legislative measures for the amelioration of slavery have been adopted by them, which, having been confirmed by His Majesty's government, are in legal as well as practical operation.

BARBADOS.

Two Acts of the legislature of this island, which received the royal assent on the 18th October, 1827, amongst other beneficial enactments, contain provisions to the following effect :—

§ 2. Constitutes the governor and four chief officers of government, a *council of protection* ; with power to appoint an acting protector, at £400 per annum.

§ 1. Requires owners and their agents to instruct their slaves in the Christian *religion* ; and to cause all hereafter born, to be *baptised*, as well as all now living who can be made sensible of religious duties. Requires clergymen to solemnize *matrimony* between slaves, with the owner's consent : and provides that all registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials of slaves shall be duly kept.

§ 4. Prohibits the holding of any market, or keeping open any shop, excepting, as in England, for the sale of medicines, or of perishable food, on *Sunday*, Christmas-

day, or Good-Friday ; under penalty of £5, in the latter case, and forfeiture of goods exposed in the former.

§ 6. Prohibits the setting or allowing any slave to *labour on Sundays*, under penalty of £10.

§ 5. Requires owners of slaves, under penalty, to furnish them annually with decent and sufficient *clothing*, suitable to sex, age, and condition.

§ 32. Provides that, should it appear that an owner cannot afford *necessary food* to his slave, the acting protector shall take temporary possession of the slave, and hire him out until the owner's circumstances are bettered ; but if it appear that the owner had the means and withheld the same, the justices shall indict him to the Grand Sessions, and on conviction he is to be punished by fine and imprisonment. Owners of *diseased slaves* suffering them to go at large, or infest the highways, &c. to forfeit £10.

§ 46. Provides that slaves be *whipped* with the like instruments, and in like manner, as practised in His Majesty's army and navy, except where a milder instrument may be preferred. Female slaves to be punished in a private and decent manner, and when pregnant, to be punished by confinement only. Penalty £10.

§ 44. Enacts that any person who wantonly commits *cruelty* towards a slave, by whipping, bruising or beating, &c., shall be fined by any two justices not less than £25, and not exceeding £100.

§ 45. Subjects any white or free person, *maiming* or dismembering a slave, to be imprisoned not less than 6 months, and fined not less than £100, the interest of which to be an annuity for the slave for life, and the slave to be transferred to some master of humane repute.

§ 47. Provides that any person fixing a *collar*, chains, or irons on a slave, be punished by fine and imprisonment.

§ 40. Enacts that the *wilful murder* of a slave, by any person, be punished by death without benefit of clergy.

§ 33. Provides that slaves charged with capital offences, be *tried* at the Grand Sessions, in like manner as white and free-coloured persons.

§ 7. Secures to slaves the absolute *right of personal property*, and subjects owners of slaves, or other persons, depriving them of their personal property, to forfeit double the value of such property to the use of said slaves.

§ 3. Admits the *evidence* of slaves in actions of trespass, assault, and in cases of misdemeanor, murder, felony, or other offences, except forgery, against any person whatever: requiring only a certificate of baptism and religious instruction, and that such testimony, against free persons, be corroborated by circumstantial evidence, unless when such free person be an accomplice.

In a dispatch, dated 18th Oct., 1827, Mr. Secretary Huskisson remarks, that the above "Act contains unequivocal advances to a better system of law, of which His Majesty is graciously pleased to mark his approbation by its allowance."

ST. VINCENT.

The consolidated Slave-Law of St. Vincent, which received the royal assent March 14, 1827, contains provisions to the following effect:—

§ 2. Declares slaves to be real estate.

§ 5. Secures to them the possession of *personal property*, and guards against its invasion by a fine of £10, over and above the value of the property taken.

§ 9. Restricts the *Sunday market* to 10 a. m., under forfeiture of goods, &c.

§ 7. Requires that no shop or store be opened on a Sunday, under penalty of £10, excepting, as in England, for perishable articles of food, out of church hours.

§ 8. Requires owners or managers to promote *religious instruction* and a knowledge of moral duties; to cause all slaves to be baptised, without fee or reward, within six months after birth; to have such baptism duly registered, and a copy of the register given to each slave baptised.

§ 10. Requires parish clergyman to solemnize *matri-mony*, without fee or reward, between such slaves as, applying with their owner's or manager's consent, appear to be sensible of the obligation of the marriage vow.

§ 11. Prohibits *labour on Sundays*, even during crop: requiring that no sugar be boiled, or the mill put about, or any other kind of field or plantation work performed, between the hours of 7 on Saturday night and 4 on Monday morning, under penalty of £50.

§ 12. Allots to every slave half an hour for *breakfast*, and two hours for *dinner*; and prohibits all manner of field labour before 5 in the morning or after sun-set, except during crop, under penalty of £50.

§ 13. Provides that all plantation slaves shall have assigned to them a *portion of land* fully adequate to their support; and that in each year they shall be allowed 26 full working days to cultivate the same. That they shall likewise have for *holidays*, Good-Friday, Christmas-day, and the two days next following. Penalty £50.

§ 14. Requires that a qualified *medical practitioner* shall be employed to attend all slaves who require medical or surgical aid, under penalty of £50; and shall keep a record of all patients and prescriptions.

§ 15. Prohibits owners or managers from permitting sick or *infirm slaves* to wander about, under penalty of £10 for each offence.

§ 16. Assigns to mothers, midwives, and nurses, certain premiums in money for properly *rearing infants*; and exempts mothers of six children from all arduous labour, at the same time securing to them an "easy and comfortable maintenance," under penalty of £100 for each omission.

§ 18. Facilitates *manumission*, and punishes the unlawfully detaining free persons as slaves by penalty of thrice the value of such persons' services. Enacts that any owner or manager manumitting an aged or infirm slave, to avoid the burthen of maintaining him, shall forfeit £200, of which £20 shall be annually paid to the slave for life.

§ 20. Makes the *murder* of a slave felony, without benefit of clergy.

§ 21. Limits *punishment*, by inferiors to 10 stripes, by owner or manager to 39, within any one week, under

penalty of £50 for every excess; and requires record of all such punishments to be kept, and produced to any justice of the peace, under penalty of £20.

§ 23. Enacts that no superintending slave shall, under penalty as for a misdemeanor, carry *the whip*, as heretofore, as an emblem of authority in the field.

§ 24. Prohibits the placing an *iron collar* round the neck, or chains upon the body, of any slave, under penalty of from £5 to £50 : justice of peace, upon information, to remove such, under penalty of £100.

§ 26. Enacts that if any owner or manager shall, of himself or with his knowledge, *wantonly or cruelly* whip, maltreat, beat, bruise, cut, wound, or imprison, or confine without sufficient support, any slave, he shall suffer fine of £150, or 12 months' imprisonment, or both, for each offence : and the court are empowered to declare the slave absolutely free, assigning him an annuity of £15 for life.

§ 66. Makes some provision for the admission of *slave evidence*.

§ 69. Provides that slaves charged with grave offences shall be tried in all respects like free persons : with the exception of this superior advantage, that counsel be assigned such slaves at the public expense.

Upon which law the Secretary of State for the colonies stated, in a letter to the Governor of St. Vincent, dated 3rd April, 1827 :

“ His Majesty has observed with satisfaction
“ the progress made by these enactments in the
“ measures to be taken for the improvement of
“ the state of the slave population.”—“ Upon a

“ review of the whole of this law, I am com-
 “ manded by His Majesty to express his satis-
 “ faction with the general disposition of the
 “ council and assembly to adopt the recommen-
 “ dations which have been addressed to them on
 “ this important subject.”

GRENADA.

The consolidated Slave Act of this island, which received the royal confirmation on the 20th October, 1825, comprises the following provisions :—

§ 2. Enacts that every slave shall be allotted a sufficient portion of land, for the growth of *provisions*, adequate to his support ; and allowed 28 full working days in each year to cultivate the same ; or where no land can be had, “ good and ample provision ” in lieu thereof : shall be provided with a “ good and comfortable *house*,” with one or more beds, raised at least one foot from the ground ; ~~be supplied weekly with a sufficient allowance of salt, and salt fish, or such other food as their ages and state, of health may require ; and shall receive sufficient and decent~~ *clothing* and blankets, suitable to sex, age, and condition, under penalty upon owner or manager of £10 for every neglect or refusal. Any justice of peace, upon information that “ the true intent and meaning of this act is not complied with,” shall proceed to the spot, ex-

nine parties upon oath, (who are required to answer, upon penalty of £50), and on proof of the fact, to order to each slave, weekly, 4s. 6d. in money, salt, and 2 pounds of salt fish, and adequate clothing, under penalty on owner of £100 for refusal to supply the same.

§ 4. Requires all owners or managers to have their slaves instructed in the Christian religion: to cause every infant to be baptized within 6 months of its birth, and all such adults as can be made sensible of religious duty: which ceremony, as well as attendance on such as require spiritual aid, the parish clergyman is required to perform gratis.

§ 5. Provides for the solemnization of matrimony, where parties belong to the same owner, and have his consent; if they appear to be sensible of the obligation of the marriage vow.

§ 6. Enacts that there shall be on every estate a proper hospital, and a book in which the surgeon shall record all cases coming under his care.

§ 7. Requires that each field slave shall have half an hour for breakfast, and 2 hours for dinner, each working day; and, except during crop, shall not work before day-break, or after sun-set.

§ 8. Provides that every mother of 5 children living shall be allowed 52 days in each year, under penalty of £5 for each day omitted: that no manner of field labour shall be performed on Sundays, excepting the potting of sugar, and that not after 8 o'clock in the morning: and that no mill shall be put about between 10 on Saturday night, and 4 on Monday morning. Penalty £10.

§ 9. Provides that no sick or infirm slave shall be discarded or suffered to roam about, but be maintained upon

the estate, supplied with wholesome food, decently clothed, comfortably lodged, and furnished with other necessities, under penalty of £50: the slave to be maintained in the interim by the public at his owner's expense.

§ 10. Restricts *punishment* by owner or manager to 15 lashes, or, in presence of another free person, to 25; any greater punishment to be inflicted by a magistrate only. Under penalty of £10 and imprisonment for excess, or for repetition of the specified number during the same day. Record to be kept, and submitted to magistrates.

§ 12. Forbids any superintending slave to carry any *whip*, cat, or like instrument, as a mark of authority in the field, under penalty as for misdemeanor.

§ 13. Provides that if any owner, manager, or other person, shall cruelly cut, wound, maim, or mutilate, or confine without sufficient support, any slave or slaves, he shall be fined from £100 to £500, and imprisoned 12 months: and the court may pronounce the slave free, and assign him an annuity for life, out of the fine upon the offender. Justices, upon information of such offence, to take immediate charge of the slave, until investigation can be had.

§ 48. Enacts that in all cases of disputed freedom, the *proof of slavery* shall lie on the person alleging it.

§ 50. Declares any sale to be null and void, if it separate father, mother, and children.

§ 51. Facilitates *manumission*, by providing that where there are mortgagees whose consent to it cannot be procured, another slave may be substituted.

§ 52. Secures to the slave the possession of *personal property*, and imposes a penalty of £10 over and above the full value, on such as infringe upon it.

Of this law, Earl Bathurst, in a dispatch of the 20th October, 1825, says: "It only remains
"for me to do the Council and Assembly of Grenada the justice of acknowledging the spirit
"of liberality and benevolence by which some
"of the provisions are characterised, which,
"without any suggestion from His Majesty's
"government, have been spontaneously devised
"and executed by the legislature."

Subsequently to this period, the legislature of Grenada have passed two additional bills, dated the 21st and 24th November, 1828, which effect these most important provisions:

1. That Sunday markets are absolutely prohibited. And
2. That the evidence of slaves shall be admitted and received, in all cases civil and criminal, precisely as that of free persons.

In a dispatch of Secretary Sir G. Murray, dated 8th June, 1829, he characterises the Assembly of Grenada as "A colonial legislature
"which has honourably distinguished itself in
"the improvement of the slave code."

DOMINICA.

The legislature of this island passed, in 1826, a bill, which on the 3d April, 1827, received the royal assent, " For the further encouragement, " protection, and better government of slaves ; " and for the general amelioration of their condition."

§ 1. Requires that every owner or manager provide for his slaves " a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome *food*, dry and comfortable *lodging*, suitable *clothing*, and *medical aid* and advice ; and that he comfortably maintain all old, infirm, and diseased slaves on his estate," the whole under penalty of £100 for each omission.

§ 2. Provides that each slave shall be allowed half an hour for *breakfast*, and, out of crop, 2 hours for *dinner*, during crop 1 hour and a half : that no slave shall be required to work before 5 in the morning, nor after 7 in the evening, except during crop, and then not later than 9. That no slave shall be put to any labour on a *Sunday*, excepting domestic duties, or in case of accidents ; nor on Good Friday, nor on Christmas Day and the day following, nor on New Year's Day, and if either of these fall on a Sunday, then the next Wednesday in lieu of it. Penalty £50 for breach of any one of these provisions.

§ 3. Provides that where owner allots *provision-ground* instead of food, each slave shall have half an acre for his or her share, and be allowed one day in every week to cultivate it ; except during crop, when the owner shall

distribute food in lieu of such day ; still not less than 26 clear days in each year shall be allowed, under penalty of £10 for each omission. Every owner required, under penalty of £50, annually, to vouch on oath that he has strictly complied with all and each of the provisions contained in the three preceding clauses.

§ 6. Requires that slaves be encouraged to receive *baptism*, and afforded " every reasonable facility to attend *divine worship* ;" penalty £5.

§ 7. Prohibits the holding of any *market*, or opening of any shop, during the hours of church service, under penalty of £10.

§ 10. Makes wilful *murder* of a slave capital, without benefit of clergy ; and *manslaughter* punishable precisely as in England.

§ 11. Provides that any person whatever who shall mutilate, wantonly or *cruelly whip* or cause to be whipped, beat, bruise, cut, wound, or imprison, or confine without sufficient nourishment, any slave or slaves, shall on conviction suffer fine of £200, or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

§ 12. Subjects persons wantonly beating or striking the slave of another, to penalty of £50.

§ 14. Makes some provision for the admission of *slave evidence*.

§ 18. Enacts, that " *the whip*, commonly called the cart-whip, shall never hereafter be employed either as an instrument of punishment, or an emblem of authority ;" and that the only instrument of correction shall be the cat used in the British army.

§ 33. Restricts *punishments* to 6 stripes by inferior, 10 by an overseer, 20 by a manager, and 39 by owner

under grave circumstances : prohibits the infliction until the effects of any former punishment be thoroughly cured ; and permits no punishment to exceed 10 stripes at the time of the offence, or during that day : guards punishment of females against any indecent exposure. Penalty £30.

§ 34. Prohibits the use of *collars*, or chains, excepting upon notorious run-aways ; when such may be applied, provided they in no case exceed four pounds in weight.

§ 13, 16. Protects the *property* of slaves, by penalty of £20 on any person infringing it, or refusing to pay to them any just debt. Right of action vested in master.

§ 17. Provides that the *trial* of slaves for capital offences shall be in all respects the same as that of free persons.

1. And by an act passed in 1829, it has been decreed that no slaves shall in future be *sold separate* from the estates to which they belong.

In a dispatch of the 3rd April, 1827, Lord Bathurst makes the following remarks to Governor Nicolay respecting the above Bill :—

“ His Majesty is graciously pleased to acknowledge with commendation the disposition which the legislature of Dominica have manifested in many of the provisions of these acts, to improve the condition of the slave population ; and, considering that they are in general framed in such a manner as to promote the well-being of that class of society, His Majesty has, with the advice of his Privy Council, been pleased to confirm them.”

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

An Act "For further improving the condition
 "of the Slave population in the Island of St.
 "Christopher:" which received the royal assent
 on the 18th March, 1829, contains the following
 amongst other provisions :—

§ 1. Limits Sunday markets to 11 a. m.

§ 3. Prohibits all kind of *labour on Sundays*, excepting domestic affairs, and the potting of sugar : and requires that no mill be put about, between 10 on Saturday night and daylight on Monday morning ; under penalty of £50.

§ 4. Prohibits the using, for the purpose of impelling or coercing labour, or carrying as an emblem of authority, the instrument called the *cart-whip* : under penalty of £100, or 6 months imprisonment, or both.

§ 5. Requires all owners and managers to instruct their slaves in the Christian *religion* : to have all children baptized within 6 months of their birth, and all adults who can be made sensible of religious duty : which ceremony the parish clergyman shall in all cases perform, and register, and give to each slave a certificate thereof ; and shall also administer spiritual consolation when required ; in each particular without fee or charge, under penalty of £10.

§ 8. Requires that clergymen shall solemnize *matri-*

mony between slaves applying with their owners' consent : and provides that if owners refuse, the slave may, through the Attorney-General, move the Court of King's Bench, which, in the event of the owner's failure to show just cause of objection, shall grant the application.

§ 9, 17. Enacts that slaves may acquire, hold, enjoy, and dispose of *property*, viz. money, cattle, household goods, and the like, and may bring, prosecute, or defend suits or actions in respect of the same : persons invading it to pay £10 over and above its full value.

§ 10. Enacts that a party claiming or alleging any person to be a slave, shall be required to prove the slavery.

§ 11. Limits *punishment* of slaves to 25 stripes in any one day, for any offence whatever : forbids any punishment until offender be recovered from any former chastisement : restricts to 12 stripes on the day when any offence is committed, and to the like number unless in the presence of another free person ; under penalty of fine and imprisonment. And prohibits any indecent exposure of females under punishment. Record to be kept, for inspection of magistrates, of all punishments exceeding 12 stripes, or 48 hours confinement : penalty £50.

§ 16. Prohibits the *separation of families* by sale under judicial process.

§ 18. Provides that slaves may deposit their *money*, to the extent of £9 per week, in the public treasury, at interest of £5 per cent per annum ; and bequeath such property at discretion : the same descending, in the event of intestacy, to next of kin.

§ 19. Prohibits any owner or manager from turning away a slave *disabled by sickness* or infirmity ; and requires

that such shall be comfortably maintained and fed upon the estate, under penalty of £50; and requires recognizance and sureties amounting to £200, that such slave shall for the future be well treated, lodged, fed, and clothed.

§ 6, 15. Enact that *slave evidence* shall, under certain restrictions, be admitted and received.

“Upon the highly important subject of the evidence of slaves,” says Mr. Secretary Huskisson, “the provisions of this Act approach nearly to a perfect compliance with the recommendations of His Majesty’s Government.”

“This Act,” says the Right Hon. Secretary, in the same dispatch, dated March 7, 1828, “is remarkable for the wisdom and humanity of the greater part of its provisions.”

NEVIS.

The legislature of this island passed, in October, 1828, a series of bills for the protection and government of slaves, which have received His Majesty’s sanction, and of which the following are some of the provisions :—

Act I. Establishes and vests in the magistracy of the

island the protection and guardianship of slaves : requiring of each to hear and investigate all complaints made by slaves, to issue warrant against and prosecute offender : under penalty of £200.

Act II. "An act to regulate the admission of the *Evidence* of slaves ;" declaring that, with certain restrictions, as in the law of St. Christopher, their evidence "shall be taken and received in the same form and manner as the evidence of a person of free condition."

Act III. "An act for regulating the solemnization of *marriages* among slaves, and for declaring such marriages valid and effectual in law;" enjoining on clergymen the celebration thereof, without fee or reward, on the same conditions, and with the same remedy for the slave, as in the law of St. Christopher, § 8.

Act IV. "An act for regulating *Sunday markets*, and for preventing the employment of slaves in work or labour on that day ;" requiring that markets be closed at 11 a. m., and that no shop be open, excepting druggists', and for the sale of articles of perishable food, out of church-hours, as in England. And enacting that no person employ slaves in any kind of labour, excepting domestic affairs, or in cases of accident or emergency, upon the Sabbath-day, under penalty of £10 for each offence.

Act V. "An act to enable slaves to acquire, possess, and alienate *property*:" empowering them also, "to bring, maintain, prosecute, and defend any suit or action in respect thereof, as fully and amply, and to all intents and purposes, as if such person were of free condition : " and providing, further, that such property, in cases of intestacy, shall go to next of kin.

Act VI. "An Act to prevent the *separation of slaves*, by

sale or transfer, in certain cases, without their consent:" requiring that father and mother and child or children under 12 years, shall on no account be sold otherwise than together, unless with their own free will and consent. Any sale to the contrary of these provisions is declared null and void, and the offender punishable by fine of £50 and imprisonment. See § 18, Act of 1826.

Act VII. "An Act more effectually to facilitate the *manumission* of slaves:"

§ 1. Only stipulates that if manumitted slave be likely to become chargeable to the public, from inability to support himself, his owner shall enter into suitable recognizance to defray his maintenance.

§ 2. Requires island secretary to register manumissions.

§ 3. Provides relief in case of obstacles to manumission, where granted by bequest; of difficulty raised by executors; or of incapacity of minors.

§ 8. Provides, that if any person be excepted to, in or out of court, as being a slave, *onus probandi* shall lie on the challenger.

The principles laid down in the other recommendations of Lord Bathurst, as well as the existing enactments of the slave melioration act, are to be consolidated in a separate Bill.

Some of the provisions of the existing Slave melioration Act of Nevis, passed the 27th April, 1826, are as follow:—

§ 7. Provides for the establishment of *savings banks*, to receive deposits from slaves to any amount not exceeding £10 at one time, to bear interest at 6 per cent., interest to be added to, and become, principal.

§ 16. Prohibits the carrying "the *cart whip*," either as an emblem of authority, or instrument of punishment; but permits some "moderate and innoxious" substitute.

§ 17. Requires that no female slave be otherwise chastised than with a bunch of rods, not exceeding 20 stripes, over back and shoulders; indecent exposure of person prohibited.

§ 25. Provides that slaves accused of felony, be tried in all respects as free persons.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

A very voluminous bill, drawn up by the speaker of the Assembly at Tortola, comprehending the provisions recommended by Lord Bathurst, and other most important enactments, was prepared and sent to St. Christopher, for the revision of the late Attorney-General Woodley; but which, it is understood, had not been returned at his death.

In all the colonies having legislatures under the government of which St. Christopher is the head-quarters, the free people of colour have the privilege of voting at elections for members of the Assembly.—There, as elsewhere in the colonies, the progress of religious and moral instruction is extensive. In the Island of St. Christopher there are as many Negro children

attending the schools of instruction, in proportion to the population, as there are in England children attending the national schools. The impoverished Island of ANGUILLA subscribed 850*l.* for building a church.

BAHAMAS.

The act of the Bahamas Legislature, passed in December, 1826, and confirmed by His Majesty on the 5th March, 1828, "To amend, consolidate, and bring into one act, the several laws relating to slaves, and for giving them further protection and security," contains provisions to the following effect:—

§ 2. Requires that every slave, above 10 years of age, shall be supplied with "1 peck of Indian corn, or 21 pints of wheat flour, or 7 quarts of rice, or 56 lbs. of potatoes, cocoas, or yams, per week, over and above a sufficient quantity of *land* for every such slave; and one-half the same allowance to each child under 10 years; as also 2 suits of proper and sufficient *clothing* in each year," under penalty of £50 for each neglect.

§ 3. Provides that if slaves manumitted be incapable of labour, the manumittor shall be liable for their *main-*

tenance: until such maintenance be enforced, and in cases without other remedy, all such manumitted persons shall be taken care of at the public expense.

§ 6. Prohibits the *separation* of father and mother and child or children under 14 years of age, rendering any sale, either judicial or private, of such parties, null and void; and forbids executors to assent to, or execute, any legacy involving such a separation: penalty £100 for each offence.

§ 9. Requires all owners and managers to instruct their slaves in the Christian *religion*, to fit them for baptism, and cause it to be performed as soon as may be.

§ 14. Enacts, that any person whatever, who shall wilfully *mutilate* any slave, or cause or permit such mutilation, shall suffer fine of £100, and 12 months imprisonment; the slave, if the court see fit, to be made free, and paid an annuity of £10 for life, out of the said fine.

§ 16. Makes wilful *murder* of a slave felony, without benefit of clergy.

§ 17. Provides that if any person shall wantonly or *cruelly whip*, maltreat, beat, bruise, wound, imprison, or confine without sufficient support, any slave, such person shall be indicted, and suffer fine and imprisonment at discretion of the court.

§ 8. Prohibits, as a misdemeanor, the "use of any *whip*, cat, or other instrument of the like nature, while superintending the labour of any slave or slaves upon the field of any plantation, for the purpose of impelling or coercing labour."

§ 18. Provides that no slave shall, on any account, be *punished* with more than 39 lashes; nor receive a second punishment on the same day, or before recovered

from any former chastisement ; nor females be punished otherwise than privately : penalty £10 for every offence. Also authorises the commutation of flogging for any of the following modes of punishment : viz.—solitary confinement ; field, horse, or bed stocks ; or distinguishing dresses ; limiting the duration, and prescribing intervals before the repetition, of such punishment.

§ 20. Prohibits the putting any *collar* round the neck, or chains, irons, or weights upon the body, of any slave, under penalty of £50 ; and any justice is required to cause such to be removed, under penalty of £100.

§ 21. Requires that all slaves shall be allowed Christmas, and the 2 following working days, as *holidays*.

§ 58. Provides that slaves *tried* for capital offences, shall be tried in all respects like free persons.

§ 13. Makes some provision for the admission of *slave evidence*.

§ 27. Provides for the solemnization of *matrimony* between slaves, or slave and free person, owner consenting.

§ 33. Prohibits the holding of any *market*, or opening of any shop, on Sunday, under penalty of total forfeiture of the goods ; excepting that butcher's meat, fish, milk, &c., may be sold between sun-rise and 9 o'clock in the morning, but not later, under penalty of £5 on persons frequenting, and £20 on clerk not closing, the said market.

§ 36. Entitles slaves " to hold, inherit, purchase, and dispose of lands, money, cattle, &c., of what value soever ; and, by *prochain ami*, to maintain and defend suits in respect thereof, as persons of free condition."

§ 37. Provides for the safe deposit of the *money* of slaves, in the hands of the receiver-general ; and secures

the transmission of such, as well as of property in land, to their heirs, legitimate or putative.

§ 44. Repeals all tax upon manumission.

§ 45—51. Empowers any slave to purchase his or her own *manumission*, or that of his wife, child, brother, or sister. In case of difficulty, slave (above 14 years of age) may apply to magistrate, who shall appoint two referees, one for each party, to determine amount of compensation. Payment, or even tender, of the amount they award, to owner or his representative, shall entitle slave to his freedom. If referees disagree they shall appoint an umpire, whose decision shall be final. Magistrates required to act on all the provisions of this clause, under penalty of £50; and owner contumaciously resisting, subjected to fine from £10 to £50.

In a dispatch, dated the 5th of March, 1828, Mr. Huskisson observes, that, “ He is commanded by His Majesty to express his very “ gracious approbation of the disposition which “ the legislature of the Bahama Islands have “ manifested, to acquiesce in so large a portion of the suggestions which were made “ by his command, for the improvement of the “ condition of the slave population of the colony.”

TOBAGO.

With regard to this island, Earl Bathurst, in a dispatch dated 26th July, 1824, writes that, "The legislature of Tobago, previously to the suggestions which he had the honour to communicate to the governors of the colonies in the West Indies, had evinced their anxiety for the improvement of their slave-laws, by their favourable reception of an act which they have since passed, and which it is impossible not to view as comprising many humane and judicious enactments very materially contributing to such improvement."

This had reference to an act passed 3rd August, 1823: the legislature of Tobago have since passed a new Slave Law, 15th August, 1829, extending the beneficial regulations of the former, and containing the following provisions:—

§ 2. Provides that slaves accused of higher crimes than misdemeanor, be *tried* in all respects like free persons. And by another act of the same date, it is provided, § 12, that slaves shall, when required, have *counsel assigned* them at the public expense, insufficient time to instruct whom shall be a reasonable cause for deferring the trial to the following session.

§ 5. Enacts that the *evidence* of slaves shall in all cases, civil or criminal, be received and admitted, precisely as that of free persons, without any other restriction or exception whatever.

§ 9. Provides that every owner or manager shall allow to each slave sufficient *land*, adapted to the growth of provisions, for his or her support and maintenance ; that each slave shall be allowed every Thursday, during 7 months in the year, to cultivate the same : but where an owner has not suitable land, he shall make ample *provision* for each slave in lieu thereof ; and he shall provide for every family a good and comfortable *house*, and give to each slave, when practicable, a weekly allowance of salt fish, or such other food as their ages and state of health may require ; and give to each sufficient and suitable *clothing*, and blankets : to slaves unattached to any estate, the owner shall also give comfortable lodging, sufficient food, and decent clothing.

§ 10. Constitutes justices of the peace a council of *protection* : requires of them, on information that any owner disregards, in any particular, the foregoing provisions, to inspect the grounds, clothing, and lodging of the slaves on the estate complained of, and forthwith to allot to each slave one quarter of an acre of land, or a weekly allowance of 7 quarts of corn-meal, or 5 quarts of rice or flour in lieu thereof, 2 pounds of salt fish ; and annually for clothing, 6 yards of cloth, 6 yards of strong linen, 1 hat, &c.

§ 11. Enjoins on owners or managers to promote baptism and *religious instruction* : the former within 6 months of the birth of infants, and on all adults so soon as they can be made sensible of religious duties : clergymen, or dissenting preachers, required to perform the duty without fee or reward.

§ 12. Requires of clergymen to celebrate *matrimony*, also gratis, between parties applying with owner's consent, and appearing sensible of matrimonial obligations.

§ 13. Absolutely prohibits the *separation by sale*, judicial or private, of father, mother, and child or children under 12 years of age : such sale, if attempted, declared null and void.

§ 14. Prohibits the holding any market, or opening any shop, on *Sundays*, otherwise than for the purchase of articles of food, under penalty of seizure of goods, and fine of £5.

§ 15. Enacts that no slave shall be employed in labour on a *Sunday*, excepting in domestic business, sudden accident, or potting of sugar, under penalty of £5 : no mill to be put about between 8 on Saturday night and 4 on Monday morning, under like penalty : and no female having 6 children to be set to any species of laborious work, under same penalty.

§ 16. Provides that no slave shall leave home for *labour* before day-break in the morning, nor work after sun-set, excepting in particular cases requiring night work : that each slave have time for breakfast, 40 minutes, and for dinner 1 hour and 40 minutes.

§ 19. Strictly prohibits *exposure of females* under punishment.

§ 20. Prohibits any kind of *punishment* by driver, unless under express order of owner or manager.

§ 21. Limits overseer to infliction of 6 stripes ; owner to 12, excepting in presence of other free person ; not to exceed 20 under any circumstances ; and not more than 12 on the day when offence committed ; nor a second punishment, although for a second offence, on the

same day ; nor until recovered from effects of any former chastisement.

§ 22. Provides that to exceed those limits, or to wantonly or cruelly cut, wound, maim, or mutilate, or confine without sufficient support, shall be prosecuted as a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine and imprisonment.

§ 17. Protects slaves in the possession of *real and personal property*, to any amount ; and empowers them to bring and maintain suits in respect thereof, as fully and amply in all respects as persons of free condition.

BERMUDA.

The consolidated act which was passed by the legislature of Bermuda in July, 1827, " To ameliorate the condition of slaves, &c." contains the following amongst other provisions :—

§ 20. Prohibits any owner or manager from suffering *sick* or infirm slaves *to wander about* in quest of maintenance, under penalty of 5*l.* for each offence.

§ 26. Makes some provision for the admission of *slave evidence*, both in civil and criminal cases.

§ 32. Empowers slaves to maintain action, by guardian appointed by Chief Justice, against their owner, for breach of any contract of *manumission* : dispenses with securities previously required in cases of manumission, excepting where the slave is old, infirm, or otherwise incapable of maintaining himself.

§ 35. Provides that the secretary of the colony shall from time to time give notice in the Bermuda Gazette, of all *bequests* in favour of slaves, contained in any will registered by him: Chief Justice to appoint a guardian to recover the same *in forma pauperis*, if withheld or disputed.

§ 36. Secures to slaves any and all property bequeathed to them, or purchased by such bequest; and authorises its disposal by will, or otherwise.

§ 38. Provides for the *intermarrying* of slaves, without fee or charge, if with owner's consent—such marriages, as also *baptisms*, to be formally registered.

§ 41. Prohibits the *separation* of husband and wife—and provides that slave may purchase the freedom of his wife, and thereby their issue shall be free; and may also purchase the freedom of his child or children.

§ 44. Punishes *cohabitation* of any married female slave with any man other than her lawful husband, by imprisonment and hard labour.

§ 45. Establishes *savings-banks*, for deposit of the earnings of slaves.

ANTIGUA.

With respect to Antigua, we may refer to an extract from a speech delivered by the governor, Sir Patrick Ross, to both houses of the legislature in June, 1827, in proof of the fact, that most of

the points of amelioration which have been recently enacted in the other colonies, are already established in Antigua by law, or adopted in practice :

“ It gives me pleasure to assure you, that my
“ experience during the last twelve months has
“ enabled me to form the most favourable judg-
“ ment, and conviction of the reciprocity of at-
“ tachment which I have observed invariably to
“ exist between the higher orders and proprie-
“ tors throughout this colony on the one part,
“ and the slave population on the other: an
“ attachment which could have originated alone,
“ and been gradually cemented, by those bene-
“ volent and humane feelings which you with
“ justice attribute to yourselves, and which are
“ confirmed by the various legislative enact-
“ ments which are already contained in your
“ code of laws.”

DEMERARA AND ESSEQUIBO.

“ An ordinance for the religious instruction of slaves in His Majesty’s colonies of Demerara and Essequibo, and for the improvement of their condition,” which was passed by the Court of Policy of those colonies, and sanctioned by His

Majesty's government, in July, 1825, contains the following provisions :—

§ 1. Appoints an official *protector* of slaves, at a salary of 14,000 guilders per annum : with the condition that such protector shall have no manner of property or interest in any plantation in the colony, nor in any slave employed in any kind of agriculture, either as owner, attorney, or manager. The deputy fiscals appointed assistant-protectors in their several districts.

§ 8. Requires that upon any criminal prosecution of a slave, *counsel shall be assigned* him at the public expense : and Chief Justice or Protector is required to conduct any civil or criminal suit for and on behalf of any slave, precisely as would be done on account of any free person.

§ 9. Prohibits the *working* or employing of any slave, otherwise than upon domestic or indispensable duty, between sun-set on Saturday and sun-rise on Monday, under penalty of 600 guilders for every offence. The “indispensable duty” consists in certain operations *during the time of crop only*, which occupy but a few persons, and but for a few hours, but which cannot be deferred ; for this the slave is to be paid wages, fixed by the protector, and enforced by penalty of 50 guilders for each refusal.

§ 10. Provides that persons *employing the slaves of others* without their owner's consent, shall suffer a fine of 600 guilders.

§ 11. Requires that all *Sunday markets* do cease and terminate at 11 a. m.

§ 12. Absolutely prohibits the *carrying a whip*, or any other instrument of punishment, in the field or elsewhere, either as a badge of authority, or as a stimulus to labour,

under penalty of 600 guilders, or from one to six months imprisonment.

§ 13. Restricts *corporal punishment* of male slaves to 25 lashes at the utmost; no such punishment to be inflicted until after sun-rise of the day next following the offence; nor unless in presence of one other free person, or, if the attendance of such not procurable within 24 hours, of six slaves: under penalty of 900 guilders, or three months imprisonment.

§ 14. Prohibits the flogging or *whipping of any female* slave above ten years of age, for any offence whatever, under penalty of 600 guilders, or imprisonment from one to six months: substituting solitary confinement, stocks, hand-cuffs, distinguishing marks or dresses. In all cases of confinement exceeding 12 hours duration, sufficient food and good water to be supplied to delinquents, male or female.

§ 15. Requires that a "*punishment record book*" be kept of all punishments of female slaves, and of all corporal punishments inflicted on male slaves exceeding three stripes; setting forth the nature of the offence, time and place, names of person authorising, and of free person or six slaves, witnessing, such punishment, and number of stripes actually inflicted; under penalty of 300 guilders for omission, or false statement. Fair transcript of all entries in said book to be delivered to protector once in every six months: manager to make oath that the same is a full and faithful report of every punishment inflicted; under penalty of 300 guilders.

§ 19. Provides that protector may, to any slaves having their owner's consent, grant *licence to intermarry*; and that in case of owner's refusal, and subsequent failure

to prove to protector that such proposed marriage would be injurious to the slaves themselves, protector may issue his authority to any licensed clergyman or teacher, to solemnise such marriage; of which a register is to be kept.

§ 21. Provides that to every mother of good character, shall be given a *pecuniary gratuity* of 12 guilders for her first, and 15 for every succeeding child she may bear, on its attaining the age of six weeks: and that when the youngest of six living children of each mother of good character shall be seven years of age, such mother shall not thereafter be put to any field nor other than light work: both under penalty of 300 guilders.

§ 22. Requires, that all slaves be properly supplied with customary *provisions*: that there be provision-grounds on every estate, one acre for every five slaves; or a weekly allowance of food which proprietor is required to purchase if his grounds be insufficient; and that every slave be supplied with proper clothing: under penalty of 150 guilders for every slave not properly provided.

§ 23. Limits the *hours of labour* from six in the morning to six in the evening, out of which every slave shall have two hours for meals and rest: under penalty of f300.

§ 24. Requires, that on every estate there shall be a commodious *hospital*, and a legally qualified medical practitioner employed to attend the sick; medicine, proper food, and all necessities to be provided; and a register of all cases kept.

§ 25. Requires, that no slave who has died suddenly, or shortly after punishment, or under suspicious circumstances, or who has committed suicide, shall be buried without an *inquest*, of which a report is to be sent to protector, under penalty of 500 guilders.

§ 26. Prohibits the *separation by sale* under any judicial sentence, of father, mother, and child or children under 16 years of age.

§ 27. Secures to slaves the absolute right of *personal property*: and authorises the institution of any suit, by the owner, or by the protector of slaves, for recovery of property belonging, or money due to them.

§ 28. Establishes *savings-banks*, wherein slaves may deposit money at legal interest.

§ 29, 30. Repeal and prohibit all tax upon *manumission*, requiring only sufficient security, when it shall appear to the protector that the slave manumitted is unlikely to procure his own maintenance.

§ 31. Requires clergymen and licensed preachers and teachers of every denomination, to transmit to protector, the names, &c. of every slave whom they shall deem conscious of the *obligation of an oath*.

§ 32. Receives and admits the *evidence of slaves*, in all cases, civil or criminal, whose names have been so returned to protector, as in § 31.

§ 34. Requires protector, twice in each year, to make a full return to the Lieutenant-Governor, of all matters and proceedings in which he has been engaged in that capacity.

§ 36. Provides, that if any person be *twice convicted* of inflicting upon any slave any cruel or unlawful punishment, he shall incur double the penalty already imposed, and shall be declared absolutely incapable to have the management of slaves thenceforward; and if he be owner of the estate on which such offence be committed, it shall be removed from his control, and placed under the care of curators appointed by the court of justice.

Upon this ordinance, Earl Bathurst, in a dispatch dated 9th July, 1825, announces to the governor: "I am commanded by His Majesty
"to direct you to signify to the Court of Policy
"his approbation of the zeal with which they
"have proceeded to give effect to his wishes, as
"explained by me in my dispatch of the 20th
"November, 1824; and you will assure the
"members of the court that His Majesty has
"been pleased to receive with great satisfaction
"this mark of their disposition to meliorate the
"condition, and elevate the character, of the
"slaves under their protection."

BERBICE.

The Governor and Council of government of this colony, on the 25th September, 1826, passed
"An ordinance for promoting the religious in-
"struction, and bettering the state and condition
"of the slave population in His Majesty's Colony
"of Berbice:" of which the following are the principal provisions :

§ 1. Appoints an official *protector* of slaves, at a salary

of 14,250 guilders per annum; and make civil magistrates deputy protectors in their several districts. Duties and conditions same as those required in Demerara: see § 1.

§ 9 to § 26, inclusive, are adopted from, and, with a few verbal improvements, are precisely the same as the similarly numbered clauses, in the foregoing *Ordinance of Demerara, which see.*

§ 27. Adds to the provisions of the Demerara ordinance, the right to possess *lands* as well as personal property.

§ 28, 29, 30.—See *Demerara.*

§ 31. Gives to the slave the right to purchase his own, or relative's manumission, *invito domino*; i. e. *compulsory manumission.*

§ 35, 6. Provide for the admission of *slave evidence*, on the terms and under the requisitions of the Demerara ordinance, § 31, 32, which see: excepting, here, that such evidence shall not avail where it would render any white or other person of free condition liable to be punished with death.

§ 38, 41. See *Demerara*, § 34, 36.

§ 42. Requires that a copy of this ordinance be kept and preserved by every person having the charge of a task or working gang of slaves exceeding six in number, under penalty of 500 guilders on proprietor.

Upon the provisions of this ordinance, Earl Bathurst, in his dispatch to the Lieutenant-Governor, 26th December, 1826, says: "I am to desire that you will convey to the court the sense which His Majesty entertains of the highly praiseworthy manner in which they have applied

themselves to the subjects which have been brought under their consideration."

OF the law for the management of slaves in operation in the two other British West India colonies, TRINIDAD and ST. LUCIA, it does not appear essential to go into details, as both those colonies are subjected to the operation of *Orders in Council*, framed for their use and government by His Majesty's Ministers. Their provisions bear a general resemblance to those of the other two crown colonies, Demerara and Berbice.

In all the colonies, provision has been made, at a considerable expense, for the due observance of religious worship, and the education of children; a fact for which we refer to the reports from the Ecclesiastical Authorities, and of the "Incorporated Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction of Negro Slaves;" as well as to the marked approbation on the part of His Majesty's government, expressed on the subject in the House of Lords by Earl Bathurst.

